GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3177
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VACCINE AGAINST ANTHRAX
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the department has developed technology for the development of vaccine based on recombinant protective antigen against the anthrax;

(b) if so, whether this has been transferred to industry;

(c) whether test trials have been held in this regard;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) the time by which the drug is likely to be made available in the market?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) : Yes Sir. A team of scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Centre for Biochemical Technology, Delhi (now Institute of Genomics and Integrated Biology) have jointly developed a recombinant candidate anthrax vaccine with the financial support of the Department of Biotechnology.

(b): The technology has been transferred to industry.

(c) & (d): The candidate vaccine is currently undergoing regulatory pre-clinical toxicology investigations. The results so far obtained in animals have shown it to be safe and without any toxic/adverse effects.

(e): After approval/clearance from the regulatory authorities, limited clinical trial in volunteers will be conducted. As per the time schedule planned out by the industry, the vaccine is expected to be available by July, 2003.